REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of January 24, 2006. The due date for response extends to April 24, 2006. The current status of the claims is summarized below.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are currently amended.

Claims 5, 7, 12, 14 and 19 are cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 15-18 and 20 are pending after entry of this amendment.

With respect to 102(e) rejection, independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to add more clarity to the invention and to include receiving second value of data pages from the network based file system for providing to an application running on the client node.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamitani et al., (US PG publication No. 2003/0065889) (hereinafter Kamitani). This rejection is respectfully traversed and Applicant requests reconsideration in light of proposed claim amendments.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended further to include receiving a second value of data pages from the network based file system for providing to an application running on the client node and adding the second value of data pages to the number of available data pages resident to the client node. In operation, the total number of available data pages is verified against a first value and if the total number of available data pages meet a defined condition, a read-ahead operation is initiated from client node.

Kamitani discloses a method for reading ahead data from external memory for storing in cache memory wherein the data from an external memory is read at prescribed timing and loaded onto cache memory. Precisely, if the address in a block of data resident

on the cache memory being read or written to by an application indicates a last word of a certain page in the block, an external memory control unit starts an uploading operation to upload data from a prescribed number of pages from external memory onto cache memory. (See paragraphs 0118, 0119, 0121, 0122...). Additionally, the degree of read-ahead to upload a prescribed number of pages can be set in a parameter register based on access rate of external memory. (See paragraph 0136).

The claimed invention discloses a method wherein a page of data is presented to an application running on the client-node. Upon presentation of the data page to the application, the client node checks to ensure sufficient amount of data pages are available to the client node. This is done by verifying the number of available data pages against a first value and if the number of available data pages meets a defined condition, a read-ahead request is sent from the client-node to the network based file system to upload a second value of data pages. Upon receipt of a second value of data pages, the data pages are uploaded and the total number of available data pages is updated to reflect the new value. The process of presenting, verifying and reading-ahead is continued till there are no more pages available or till the application completes.

Although Kamitani discloses a read-ahead process, the read-ahead operation of Kamitani differs from the claimed invention. Kamitani teaches a read-ahead process wherein a read-ahead request is made upon reading of the last word on a page of a block. In contrast, the claimed invention does not wait till a last word of a page in a block is read before initiating a read-ahead request. The claimed invention initiates a read-ahead request after each page is presented to the application running on the client node (See page 12, lines 17-20). Also, Kamitani does not suggest or teach monitoring the number of available data pages as soon as a data page is served to the application. In fact, Kamitani does not suggest or teach verifying the number of available data pages. Kamitani also does not suggest or

teach maintaining a total of number of available data pages to the client node and verifying this total number of available data pages against a defined (first) value. Additionally, external memory is different from network based file system. External memory is available to the computer on demand and accessing external memory to load cache memory depends on the type and nature of memory and the processor of the computer. In contrast, network based file system has to be accessed using network protocol and is dependent on the speed and nature of the network link. In view of the argument presented, the Applicants request rejection of independent claims 1, 8 and 15 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 6, 9-11, 13, 16-18 and 20 depend on the amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively. Based on the arguments described above for independent claims 1, 8 and 15, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 6, 9-11, 13, 16-18 and 20 are patentable over Kamitani et al. for at least the same reasons and request the withdrawal of their rejection.

For at least these reasons, the Examiner is kindly requested to withdraw this Section 102(e) rejection. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6905. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No SUNMP464). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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